

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



June 28, 1988

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 88-72

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF MPP SECTION 69-208.11

The purpose of this letter is to clarify the application of State Department of Social Services' Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Section 69-208.11.

Section 69-208.11 specifies that inability to communicate in English does not exempt a refugee from employment-directed education/training requirements, and shall not be considered good cause for failure to cooperate with such requirements. This means that lack of English language skills, in and of itself, is not a barrier to employment. It also means that inability to communicate in English cannot be used by the refugee as a reason not to comply with employment-directed education/training requirements.

Manual Section 69-208.11 is not applicable when refugees do not comply because they do not understand what is expected of them, but is intended as regulatory direction related to placement of non-English speaking refugees in employment and training programs. Instances when refugees cannot understand what is expected of them would be covered under Section 69-209.4 (Good Cause for Failure or Refusal to Meet or Comply with the Registration, Employment and Employment-Directed Education/Training Requirements) and these individuals should not be penalized by impositions of sanctions.

It is the Department's intent to ensure that refugees who have limited English skills understand their rights and responsibilities in the Refugee Demonstration Project (RDP) and the Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) Programs. To achieve this, the Department requires the use of interpreters, translated forms, and bilingual workers where necessary in the administration of cash and medical programs and in the employment and training programs for which nonexempt RDP and RCA applicants/recipients must participate in order to receive a grant. Please ensure that these steps, particularly the use of the new RS 36 form (Employment and Training Requirements-Refugee Cash Assistance/Refugee Demonstration Project) are followed.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact your Program Operations Analyst, at (916) 323-2131.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Horel", is written over the printed name.

ROBERT A. HOREL  
Deputy Director  
Welfare Program Division

cc: Dr. Sharon Fujii  
CWDA